



TENDER ALERT

ATTENTION GTSWCA CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

TENDER ALERT for the City of Toronto – Social Procurement Program Requirements in City Contracts

It has come to our attention that the City of Toronto has begun inserting “Social Procurement Program” (SPP) requirements into its sewer and watermain, and basement flooding protection contracts. Over the course of 2018, these requirements are expected to appear in 10-15 sewer and watermain contracts.

What is the Social Procurement Program?

Toronto is endeavoring to connect its poverty reduction strategy *and* its workplace diversity program with its infrastructure investments. What this means is that language is being included in select contracts that require the successful bidder to do one, or more, of the following items for the awarded project:

1. Hire one, or more, individuals who is not presently employed in the construction industry, from City-endorsed workforce development programs for the duration of the project;
2. Create a paid-internship on the project;
3. Devote a minimum of 10% of “all trade and crafting hours” to registered apprentices who are enrolled in City-endorsed apprenticeship training programs; and/or,
4. Provide one sub-contracting opportunity to a “social enterprise” company.

Current Situation

We are aware of three projects that have been tendered to date with these requirements embedded in them. In each of these contracts, *all four* of the requirements above were included as contract requirements. While we have been making recommendations to City staff on how this program should be implemented for well over a year, the program continues to move forward without any accepted input from construction employers.

Next Steps

The GTSWCA believes the above are requirements are unreasonable changes to existing City of Toronto tendering practices and wish to make its contractor member firms aware of these provisions. We wish to emphasize that contractors need to pay close attention to tender documents when these requirements are included.